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# PROFESSIONAL UNITY IN 2009

The NUT believes that a united teaching profession is the best way to ensure a first rate education system for all our children.

We are proud to be the largest teachers' organisation in Europe and also proud to be the Union consistently campaigning for Professional Unity.

## TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

Together we would all be stronger to tackle the most important problems facing teachers in today's classrooms. Workload is a key issue, particularly excessive planning requirements and too many observations.

Young teachers say they are leaving the profession because they cannot afford to live on their salaries. Testing, an overburdened curriculum and overzealous inspection are having a damaging effect on many teachers and, crucially, on the education system.

## WORK/LIFE BALANCE

The NUT has pointed out to government that teachers in Scotland work a 35-hour week. We are engaging with government to ensure that teachers in England and Wales do not work excessive hours either.

The NUT will be pursuing all your workload issues in 2009, whilst continuing to approach other teacher organisations to look for ways of working closely together.

## LIMITING MEETINGS

We continue to be concerned about the number of meetings that teachers are expected to attend. The NUT firmly believes that the average should not be more than one evening meeting a week.

When there are two meetings in any week, whether for consultation with parents or otherwise, there should be a week when there are no such meetings.

**NUT Acting General Secretary, Christine Blower, said:**

*"I believe that a new, unified teachers' organisation is absolutely in the best interests of teachers and children. Let's make 2009 the year of unity for the teaching profession."*

OUR AIM – PROFESSIONAL UNITY

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